



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT

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U K R A I N E

78 Newly Elected Mayors Attend Community Partnerships Project Practical Management Course

Just more than a week after getting the voters' nod, seventy-eight of Ukraine's newly-elected mayors were in class, taking a quick course on local government management techniques as a way to hit the ground running in their new positions. The mayors attended a 16-hour certified course in "Practical Management for Newly Elected Mayors," held from April 8-15, 2006, in Kyiv, Luhansk, Lviv, Cherkasy and Kherson.

The course, part of USAID's Community Partnerships Project (CPP), implemented by the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, provides knowledge about effective management and helps develop practical skills, a good initial step for mayors starting their first terms in office. The course was jointly developed by experts from the Community Partnerships Project and the Carl Vinson Institute of Government in Athens, Georgia, USA.



CPP Director Marta Kolomayets (left) and Slavutych Mayor Volodymyr Udovychenko (center) present a certificate to Mykola Skoryk (right), Mayor of Dublyany (Lviv oblast)

In total, 82 local government officials from 17 regions of Ukraine attended the training. Additional

trainings are being planned for newly-elected mayors from the Donetsk, Odesa, Sumy, Chernihiv, and Kharkiv oblasts, as well as the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

Project Feasibility Study of the Wholesale Food Market Presented in Odesa

A feasibility study for the development of a wholesale food market was presented in Odesa on April 11, attended by local business representatives, including food producers and wholesalers.

Two USAID-sponsored economic development projects, Agricultural Marketing Project and BIZPRO, supported the study, which was developed by international specialists from Poland and the United States.

During the presentation, the experts outlined the technical and financial aspects of constructing a market place, including its physical location, capital investment and legal requirements and what form local government participation should take.

The experience of European countries, e.g. Poland, confirms the need for a wholesale market in a country's economic infrastructure. This market helps to significantly eliminate the marketing expenses borne by the regional agricultural producers and wholesale companies. It also stimulates the growth of business activity, and increases trade turnover with neighboring regions and countries.

Grant Helps Mushroom Farming to Develop

People in Ukraine's more remote regions need to find innovative ways to diversify their local economies. Mushroom farming as an agricultural business can contribute to the rural economy if the

production cycle is properly organized and if reliable distribution networks are set up.



A one-year USAID-sponsored project through the Eurasia Foundation, completed on March 28, helped to develop mushroom farming in Ukraine's northern Chernihiv Oblast. A grant to the Mushroom Farming Support Center supported training for 110 clients, provided individual consultations and helped to organize study trips to leading mushroom farms for 50 prospective mushroom farmers. The Center also produced information materials, including a guidebook for new mushroom farmers. At the end of the project, two new mushroom farming businesses had begun operating, and 15 new jobs were created. The training participants saw a 280% increase in mushroom production, from 20,400 kilograms (44,880 pounds) per year to 68,400 kilograms (150,480 pounds), over the course of the grant period.

The Mushroom Farming Support Center also helped form an informal mushroom farmers' association with 27 members. The association continues to help small agricultural businesses grow, operating with association membership fees and income from paid services.

CTOs Get Anti-Corruption Training

Casals & Associates, based in Washington, held an initial training on anti-corruption mainstreaming techniques for Mission staff on April 19-21, which was followed by another session for implementing partners that took place on April 25-26. The training concentrated on developing strategies and tools for addressing corruption. The Casals team is back on

May 29 for Phase II, which will include working directly with staff and partners on incorporating anti-corruption elements in programs and activity performance monitoring plans.

USAID Awards Task Order on New Rule of Law Program

Chemonics International won a procurement competition for the new Rule of Law program that USAID will be implementing in Ukraine. USAID's RCO signed the task order on April 13, with an April 14 effective date. Chemonics COP David Vaughn is scheduled to arrive shortly to begin work on the new program. The purpose of the project is to combat corruption through strengthening the rule of law in Ukraine. The program will work to: increase transparency and accountability in the judicial system; support adoption of policy and legislative reform in rule of law and anti-corruption; and support the GOU and Ukrainian civil society in successfully implementing key reform activities, contributing to reduced corruption and strengthened rule of law.

Upcoming Events

May 18-21, U-Media Project, Media Lawyers Conference, Kyiv.

May 21, HIV/AIDS Reducing Stigma and Discrimination Project, Street campaigns in commemoration of the people died of AIDS, Simferopol, Yalta, Feodosiya.

May 31, Parliamentary Development Project, International Technical Assistance Coordination Meeting, Kyiv.

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M O L D O V A

Project to Develop Small Business in Moldova Provides Results

To help improve an unfavorable business and investment climate, and overcome impediments that hinder small and medium sized business development in Moldova, in the fall of 2003 the School of Small Business of Cahul Region established a business incubator with three branches in southern Moldova, an area of the country that is particularly underdeveloped. The incubator, which received start-up support from USAID through the Eurasia Foundation, also wanted to address a lack of business skills and knowledge among entrepreneurs, and opaque state regulations governing the private sector.



Cahul School of Small Business providing business incubation services

During the two-year project, which ended on April 6, the business incubator helped 288 new businesses to register, with 10 new businesses operating in rented space on the premises of the incubator. The incubator also provided business advice to over 900 clients and information to over 2,000 clients and visitors; conducted 50 business trainings and seminars attended by 493 people; and organized six round tables attended by businesses and local officials on issues such as taxation, business registration and licensing, and credit. In addition to new businesses, the project also helped to create 45 new jobs.

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B E L A R U S

Belarus State University Business School Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The Institute of Business and Management Technologies at Belarus State University celebrated its 10-year anniversary recently with a series of events beginning Wednesday, April 19, including a conference co-organized by the Belarus Association of Business Education and the New Eurasia Establishment (NEE), which was attended by 100 academics and education administrators. The following day the Institute held a business forum, the first of its kind, for over 200 alumni, prospective students, and business leaders from Belarus and abroad. The Institute's director, Vladimir Apanasovich, remarked, "We are grateful for the support of our partners, who have made it possible for the Institute to educate competent managers and equip them with the practical skills to respond to the demands of the modern business world."

The Institute offers an international-standard MBA program modeled after top European and American programs and graduate studies in finance, business administration, international-standard accounting, and business-oriented web design.



MBA Graduates Club awards NEE a diploma of appreciation

USAID and the Eurasia Foundation were the Institute's first partners for the MBA program, which began in 1996 with a joint Belarusian-American graduate program in Economics and Management of Technology. Since that time, USAID and EF have joined public and private donors, in offering financial and technical assistance to the Institute. The MBA program is now self-financed.

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